

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02792 041211Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 /092 W

-----041214Z 125341 /50

O R 041123Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3821
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US
SUBJ: ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 100281

1. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ABU DHABI 1231 AND ARE THEREFORE UNAWARE
OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO MESSAGE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, GREAT
RESERVATIONS ABOUT WISDOM OF ANY CONTACTS AT ALL WITH
ERITREAN INSURGENTS, EXCEPT THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, PARTICULARLY
OSMAN SALEH SABBE WHO HAS PENCHANT FOR MAKING PUBLIC STATE-
MENTS AND IN OUR JUDGMENT COULD NOT BE TRUSTED TO KEEP ANY
CONTACT TO HIMSELF IF HE THOUGHT IT SERVED HIS PURPOSE
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TO GO PUBLIC.

2. WE HAVE HITHERTO REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CONTACT
(EXCEPT ON ONE OCCASION) WITH ERITREANS. GRANTED THAT
ASMARA CONGEN IS NOW CLOSED AND OUR POSITION HERE HAS
NOW CHANGED, WE DO NOT FRANKLY SEE WHAT IS TO BE GAINED
BY OPENING SOME KIND OF DIALOGUE WITH THEM NOW. IMPACT

ON WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR POSITION HERE, SHOULD ETHIOPIANS FIND OUT (AND IN OUR JUDGMENT, THEY EVENTUALLY WILL), COULD BE DEVASTATING. AS DEPT AWARE, ETHIOPIANS ARE ALREADY ACCUSING US OF SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS WITHOUT HAVING ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC TO GO ON THAN OUR ANNOUNCED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN AND OBVIOUS TIES WITH CERTAIN OTHER ARAB "ENEMIES." MOREOVER, THEY ARE NOT ABOVE INVENTING STORIES, SUCH AS ERITREAN ATTENDANCE AT RECENT EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMISSION MEETING. SHOULD WORD REACH THEM THAT WE ARE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ERITREANS, FOR WHATEVER REASON (AND ETHIOPIANS WILL NEVER BUY RATIONALE THAT WE ARE JUST LISTENING TO WHAT ERITREANS HAVE TO SAY), WE WILL ONCE AGAIN, AND IN SPADES, HEAR ABOUT MACHINATIONS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS, ONLY THIS TIME THEY WILL HAVE SOMETHING CONCRETE TO GO ON.

3. WE THEREFORE URGE RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. IN TIME, IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR US TO TALKS DIRECTLY WITH ERITREANS, BUT THAT TIME IS NOW NOW IN OUR JUDGMENT.
TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS02792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0450
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770598/aaaadgay.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3ec1309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 100281
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2650578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, ELF, (SABBE, OSMAN SALEH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ec1309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009